

(a) the number of surprise checks of patients' toilets in Central Government Hospitals conducted during the last three years, hospital-wise;

(b) the status of officer who conducted surprise checking and the shortcoming found therein; and

(c) the action taken against the persons found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) The Medical Superintendents and Officers authorised by him go on rounds routinely to the OPDs and Wards to ensure proper cleanliness of toilets. In addition, Officers from Dte. G.H.S. have visited these Central Govt. Hospitals from time to time for surprise checks. The shortcomings noticed are rectified at the shortest possible time.

[English]

Earthquakes in Narmada Valley

67. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether earthquakes have occurred and measured on Richter scale in some areas of Narmada Valley of Madhya Pradesh on May 2, 1997 and thereafter;

(b) if so, the names of places where the earthquakes had occurred and the number thereof;

(c) the names of earthquake observatories where these earthquakes were measured and whether there was any difference in the measurement, if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any possibility of devastating earthquakes and whether there is a need to set up a permanent observatory so as to save loss by its forecast, if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to set up such observatory and if so, the place where this observatory is proposed to be set up and the capacity and cost thereof; and

(f) the area and depth in kilometres upto which the intensity of the earthquake could be measured at this observatory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER. K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A moderate earthquake of magnitude 6.0 on Richter scale occurred on 22nd May, 1997 in Jabalpur area followed by 23 aftershocks till 19.9.1997.

(c) The main shock of 22nd May, 1997 was recorded by most of the stations of India Meteorological Department's National Seismological Network.

Broad band Global Seismological Network (GSN) type of equipments recently set up at Ajmer, Bhopal, Bhuj, Bilaspur, Bokaro, Karad, Madras, Pune, Thruvanathapuram and Visakhapatnam recorded the main shock providing a unique data set. There is no difference in measurements in these observatories.

(d) to (f) Prediction of earthquakes with reasonable degree of accuracy on a scientific basis with regard to space, time and magnitude is not possible presently. Seismological network in the peninsular shield area is being upgraded under a programme supported by World Bank. India Meteorological Department (IMD) has upgraded the observatory at Bhopal by setting up a Global Seismological Network (GSN) type of equipment under this programme. Also, it is proposed to set up a new observatory at Jabalpur. A multi-element telemetry system is proposed to be installed in Khandwal area. These instruments are state-of-art and can record both local and distant earthquakes.

Delayed Projects

68. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects approved by the Government which are still pending to be implemented and their details, Statewise;

(b) whether there is huge cost escalation of these projects due to delay in the implementation;

(c) the total extra burden on the Government due to delay in the implementation of the projects; and

(d) the steps being taken to implement the projects in a scheduled time periods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) As on 31.03.1997, there were 228 central sector projects on the monitor of the Department of the Programme Implementation which have been delayed. The details of such projects is given in the "Project Implementation Status Report" on central sector projects for the quarter ending March, 1997. A copy of the report is available in the Parliament library.

(b) and (c) Out of 228 delayed projects, 170 projects had cost overrun amounting to Rs. 29,992 crores on account of various factors including delay in implementation.

(d) The steps being taken to implement the projects within scheduled time and cost are given in Statement attached.

STATEMENT

Steps taken by the government to streamline for preparing the original estimates and implementation of projects for reducing overruns

- (i) Two-stage project approval for facilitating adequate preparation, environmental and other clearances and infrastructure planning at stage I before a project is finally approved for implementation at stage II.
- (ii) Proper monitoring of projects at regular intervals, at various levels to identify constraints and take remedial measures.
- (iii) In-depth review of the progress by the project authorities and Administrative Ministries.
- (iv) Setting up of Task force/Empowered Committees for speedy finalisation of contract packages, solving land acquisition and other problems.
- (v) Close follow up by the concerned administrative Ministries and project authorities with the State Government, equipment suppliers, contractors, consultants and other concerned agencies to minimise delays.
- (vi) Inter-ministerial coordination.

[Translation]

Transmission and Distribution of Power in Bihar

69. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state;

(a) whether any request has been made by Bihar State Electricity Board to Power Grid Corporation for an ambitious project of Transmission and Distribution of Power from Hathideh to Begusarai zero mile and Purnia to Begusarai and Begusarai to Gorakhpur; and

(b) is so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) : Bihar State Electricity Board have offered Hathideh Crossing (Hathideh to Begusarai zero mile) a State project for execution to POWERGRID.

POWERGRID has proposed establishment of 400/220 KV substation at Purnia where Bongaigaon-Malda transmission line will be looped in the looped out. The same work will be executed in next 3-4 years. POWERGRID has also proposed a 400 KV D/C line for interconnecting Purnia substation to Muzafarpur/Samastipur.

[English]

Funds for Health Care Facilities to Orissa

70. SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Orissa has submitted any scheme to the Union government during the last three years seeking Central or external assistance to provide adequate health care facilities in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to approve those schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) A revised project proposal estimated to cost about Rs. 400 crores received from the State Govt. of Orissa in Feb., 1997 was posed to the World Bank for assistance under the State Health System Development Project. A preparation Mission from the World Bank visited Orissa from November, 9-14, 1997 and has interacted with the State Health Department on various aspects including preparation of the final Project Implementation Plan (PIP), on the basis of which the project will be appraised.

Two proposals for JICA assistance have also been received (i) for providing equipment for Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Shishu Bhawan, Cuttack and (ii) for upgradation of medical equipments for District Headquarters Hospitals in Orissa. These have been sent to the Ministry of Finance, Deptt. of Economic Affairs for posing to the Japanese authorities. While the latter proposal was posed to the Japanese authorities by the Deptt. of Economic Affairs on 19.3.97, in regard to the former proposal, the Deptt. of Economic Affairs have advised the State Govt. on 10.3.97 to send the proposal in the prescribed proforma.